

DEC 22 2004

JFW

Attorney Docket No. 04027/LH



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): S. NOMURA et al

Serial No. : 10/762,824

Filed : January 21, 2004

For : IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,
APPARATUS THEREFOR AND PROGRAM
FOR CONTROLLING OPERATIONS
OF IMAGE PROCESSING

Art Unit : 2673

Examiner :

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)
AND STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of a European Search Report dated December 3, 2004, issued in the counterpart European application;
- (2) Copies of non-U.S. patent cited publications; and
- (3) Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B.

The European Search Report is in English, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any non-English language publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

USP 5,287,418 and US 2002/0196973 are family members of EP 0 424 920 and EP 1 248 455 respectively. See the Annex to the EPSR.

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Date of Deposit: December 20, 2004

I hereby certify the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

N. Sahadeo

Nalini P. Sahadeo

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by credit card payment, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e) (1)

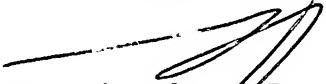
Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of December 3, 2004. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in said communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement.

It is requested that initialed copies of the Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,


Leonard Holtz, Esq.
Reg. No. 22,974

Encls.

Dated: December 20, 2004

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>DEC 20 2004 JCB</i>		Application Number		10/762,824
		Filing Date		January 21, 2004
		First Named Inventor		S. NOMURA
		Group Art Unit		2673
		Examiner Name		
Shoal & TRADEMARK OFFICE	1 of 2	Attorney Docket Number		04027/LH

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Init's*	Cite No	Document Number	Kind Code ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
		5,287,418	A	KISHIDA	02-15-1994	
		6,226,011	B1	SAKUYAMA et al	05-01-2001	
		2002/0196973	A1	SCHRODER et al	12-26-2002	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Init's*	Cite No	Offc.	Document Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T ⁶
		JP	0 424 920	A2	DAINIPPON SCREEN MFG. CO., LTD.	05-02-1991		
		JP	1 248 455	A1	IMIP LLC	10-09-2002		

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Unique citation designation number. See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication _____ of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: December 20, 2004

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PTO/SB/08B (08-00)
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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		Examiner Name			
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	04027/LH

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of article, title of item, date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
		SMEULDERS, A.W.M. et al., "Content-Based Image Retrieval at the End of the Early Years" IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, Vol. 22, No. 12, Pages 1349-1380, XP001050971, ISSN: 0162-8828, December 2000.	

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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